

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-71. (canceled)

72. (currently amended) A method of performing craniofacial reduction comprising:

- locating at least a portion of a bone to be reduced;
- positioning a reduction platform over the located bone portion;
- inserting a fragment manipulator through the reduction platform ~~and~~
~~into;~~
engaging the located bone portion with the fragment manipulator;
- threading a nut onto the fragment manipulator until the nut contacts the reduction platform; and
- continuing to rotate the nut so that the fragment manipulator is drawn up through the nut to pull the located bone portion attached to the fragment manipulator toward the reduction platform.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the fragment manipulator includes a bone engaging end and a threaded portion, the manipulator further having a portion which is sized to fit within at least one receiving hole formed in the reduction platform.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the nut is configured to threadably engage the fragment manipulator threaded portion and also to engage a top surface of the platform.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the nut further includes a spherical nose for engaging the top surface of the reduction platform, the nose being configured to facilitate angular adjustment of the fragment manipulator with respect to the reduction platform.

76. (original) The method of claim 72, wherein the fragment manipulator further includes a tool engaging portion.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the bone engaging end has a self-drilling tip.

78. (withdrawn/currently amended) The method of claim [[71]] 72, wherein the reduction platform has a plate-like configuration.

79. (withdrawn/currently amended) The method of claim [[71]] 72, wherein the reduction platform is a mask-like configuration.

80. (withdrawn/currently amended) The method of claim [[71]] 72, wherein the reduction platform is a rectangular plate having an arched profile.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the reduction platform is a cylindrical bar.

82. (withdrawn) The method of claim 80, wherein the reduction platform further comprises a support system including a head support plate and a plurality of support members having an arched profile sized and configured to extend from a first side of the head support plate to a second side of the head support plate, with the top of the arch support members being configured to extend over the patient's head.

83. (original) The method of claim 81, wherein the cylindrical bar includes a connection clamp having a first bore and a second bore, the first bore being sized and configured to receive the cylindrical bar and the second bore being sized and configured to receive the arched support member.

84. (original) The method of claim 83, further comprising a thumb wheel having an internally threaded sleeve for engaging an externally threaded portion on the cylindrical bar wherein the sleeve of the thumb wheel is sized and configured to be installed between the first bore and the cylindrical bar for incrementally adjusting the position of the bar with respect to the supporting system.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the reduction platform is positioned above a targeted bone region by a supporting system.

DOCKET NO.: SYNT-0133
Application No.: 10/783,233
Office Action Dated: December 14, 2007

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

86. (original) The method of claim 83, wherein the supporting system comprises an external frame including a head support plate and a plurality of post assemblies.

87. (withdrawn/currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[71]]~~ 72, wherein the reduction platform includes a plurality of support legs for positioning the reduction platform above the targeted bone region.